

Please add new Claims 13-15 as follows:

--13. (Newly Added) The process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the total concentration of by-products formed in said liquid-phase hydrogenation reaction is less than 300 ppm.

B4 14. (Newly Added) The process as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said total amount of by-products is less than 200 ppm.

15. (Newly Added) The process of Claim 14, wherein the total amount of by-products is less than 100 ppm.--

REMARKS

Claim 4 has been canceled. Claims 1-3 and 5-12 and new Claims 13-15 are active in the case. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants' Representative wishes to thank Examiners Price and Richter for the helpful and courteous interview dated March 2, 2001. As a result of the discussion, it is believed that the issues in the case have been clarified and that the prosecution of the application has been materially advanced.

The present invention relates to a method of hydrogenation of acetone to isopropanol product.

Acetone is a large-volume industrial product and is prepared in a number of known ways.

One of the known uses of acetone is to prepare isopropanol product, which procedure is generally done by catalytic hydrogenation. A number of publications disclose methods of hydrogenating acetone. However, for many applications, isopropanol must not contain by-products such as isopropyl ether, as well as traces of solvent from the hydrogenation of acetone. This is particularly true in the case where isopropanol is used in medicinal and cosmetic